

CURRENT STATUS OF CLAIMS

Please add new Claims 19 and 20.

Please find the current status of the claims, as of the filing of this amendment paper, as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A die insert for ~~use in die insert confining grooves in~~ slips for use in a pipe string handling apparatus, the die insert comprising:
 - a) ~~said die insert blank having~~ a front face with pipe gripping teeth and a ~~generally parallel back face being generally parallel to said front face; and~~
 - b) said back face including textured relief for engaging the slip ~~formed on the surface of the back face forming indicia, for forming and engaging impressions in the opposing surface of the confining slip, when forced against the opposing surface, to add skid resistance between the die insert and the opposing surface and to add an indicia imprint on the opposing surface.~~
2. (Original) The die insert according to Claim 1 wherein said textured relief comprises a plurality of generally transverse relief patterns, the relief representing surface depressions of more than one one-thousandth inch.
3. (Original) The die insert according to Claim 1 wherein said texture relief is achieved by a plurality of generally transverse scribe lines.
4. (Previously presented) The die insert according to Claim 1 wherein said texture relief is achieved by acid etching of the surface of the back face.

5. (Currently amended) A die insert for use in a pipe ~~string~~ handling apparatus having ~~generally parallel~~ first and second faces ~~on opposite sides~~, said first and second faces being generally parallel to each other, said die insert comprising;
- a) ~~said die insert with a first of the faces~~ textured with projecting teeth for gripping pipe surfaces; and
- b) the second face textured with surface depressions forming indicia to reduce the surface area in contact with a mating surface of die insert carrying slips such that more ~~that~~ than a selected normal loading of the die insert will coin an impression of the indicia of the textured surface of the die insert into the mating surface of the related die insert carrying groove slip, for the purpose of reducing the tendency of the die insert to slide ~~in on~~ the groove slip when the die insert is carrying a substantial payload.
6. (Original) The die insert according to Claim 5 wherein said textured surface depressions are more than one one-thousandth of an inch deep.
7. (Original) The die insert according to Claim 5 wherein said textured surface depressions comprise a plurality of generally transverse relief patterns, the relief representing a surface depression of more than one thousandth inch.
8. (Original) The die insert according to Claim 5 wherein said textured surface depressions are achieved by a plurality of generally transverse scribe lines.
9. (Original) The die insert according to Claim 5 wherein said textured surface depressions are achieved by acid etching of the insert.

10. (Previously presented) The die insert according to claim 5 wherein said textured surface on said second face forming indicia comprises a logo or drawing.
11. Canceled
12. (Currently amended) A die insert for use in a pipe string handling apparatus, having ~~generally parallel~~ first and second faces ~~on opposite sides~~, said first and second faces being generally parallel with respect of each other, said die insert comprising;
- a) ~~said die insert with a first of the~~ faces textured with projecting teeth for gripping pipe surfaces; and
- b) the second face textured with surface depressions created to displace metal upward in the vicinity of the depression to present a small elevated surface accumulation of such limited effective collective load bearing area that the raised metal will be imbedded into ~~the~~ a surface of ~~the insert supporting surfaces of a die carrying slip~~, when subjected to a preselected amount of force substantially perpendicular to said second face, to reduce the tendency for the insert to slide on the insert support surfaces and create indicia on the insert support surfaces.
13. (Original) The die insert according to Claim 12 wherein said textured surface depressions are more than one one-thousandth of an inch deep.
14. (Original) The die insert according to Claim 12 wherein said textured surface depressions comprise a plurality of generally transverse relief patterns, the relief representing a surface depression of more than one thousandths inch.

15. (Original) The die insert according to Claim 12 wherein said textured surface depressions are achieved by a plurality of generally transverse scribe lines.

16. (Original) The die insert according to Claim 12 wherein said textured surface depressions are achieved by acid etching of the insert.

17-18. Canceled.

19. (New) A die insert for use in a slip for use in a pipe handling apparatus, the die insert comprising:

a front face with a pipe gripping surface;

a back face, said back face being generally parallel to said front face, wherein said back face contacts said slip; and

substantially uniform textured relief formed on a surface of the back face for forming and engaging impressions in the opposing surface of the slip when forced against the opposing surface to add skid resistance between the die insert and the opposing surface.

20. (New) A die insert for use in a pipe sting handling apparatus having first and second faces, said first and second faces being generally parallel to each other, said die insert comprising;

said first face being textured with projecting teeth for gripping pipe surfaces;

said second face having a surface area, wherein said surface area at least partially contacts a mating surface of a slip; and

the second face textured with surface depressions to reduce the surface area in contact with

said mating surface of a slip such that the loading of the die insert will coin an impression of the of the textured surface of the die insert into the mating surface of the related slip, for the purpose of transferring the loading from the die insert to the slip.